

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

REAL-TIME BOOKMARKING OF STREAMING MEDIA ASSETS

Inventors:

Klaus Hofrichter

Richter A. Rafey

PREPARED BY:

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

SEVENTH FLOOR

LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1026

(408) 720-8300

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

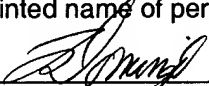
"Express Mail" mailing label number EL 234 217 466 US

Date of Deposit August 30, 2000

I hereby certify that I am causing this paper or fee to be deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

Tina Domingo

(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

8-30-2000
Date

REAL-TIME BOOKMARKING OF STREAMING MEDIA ASSETS

FIELD OF INVENTION

The invention is related to audio/video storage and multimedia
5 presentation systems.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A multimedia presentation system enables a viewer to select one or
more segments to watch by displaying a series of teasers, or short clips, that
10 describe the segments.

In some systems, the teasers are presented first, followed by the full
stories. The user can interact with the presentation engine to influence the
presentation sequence by either jumping to a specific story during the
presentation of the respective teaser or by skipping a story to continue with
15 the next story, or another continuation point.

The problem with this system is that this system only allows changing
the "position-pointer" in an ongoing presentation. There is also no real indexing
to the stories. The viewer is unable to setup a presentation sequence
dynamically for passive viewing afterwards.

5 bookmark signals from a viewer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which like references indicate similar elements, and in which:

5 **Figure 1** shows an embodiment of a method for bookmarking.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of an on-site media system having a dedicated service module.

Figure 3A is a block diagram of data recorded on a dedicated service module.

10 **Figure 3B** is a diagram of multiple designs of a dedicated service module.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of another configuration of a dedicated service module.

15 **Figure 5** is a functional block diagram of an interactive media system including content provider and viewer systems with functions.

Figure 6A is a diagram of a fine-grain media stream.

Figure 6B is a television view generated using the interactive media system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A method for real-time bookmarking of streaming media assets is disclosed. In one embodiment, the method includes dynamically changing the presentation order of a plurality of video segments based on one or more

5 bookmark signals from a viewer.

An advantage of this method is that the viewer receives a full overview of the available segment material. It is not necessary for the viewer to revisit the teasers to access other segment content of interest. The viewer can easily and dynamically determine the presentation sequence for subsequent passive and

10 customized viewing.

An apparatus, such as an interactive service module, can present television segments to a viewer on demand. The interactive service module can perform a method for real-time bookmarking of streaming media assets.

The interactive service module may include a tuner to receive data for

15 television segments, and a computer readable memory to store the segment data. Teasers associated with each segment may also be received by the tuner and stored in memory. Metadata may be used to identify each segment and its corresponding teaser. The metadata may also be received by the tuner and stored in memory. The metadata may be used to enable the viewer to control

20 the presentation order of several segments that are displayed to the viewer. A

Alternatively, instead of sending a bookmark signal to indicate that the story is of interest, a viewer can send a signal to indicate that the story is not of interest. The “not of interest” signal can be used to place the corresponding story at a later position in the presentation sequence, or to remove the story entirely from the presentation sequence. A neutral signal may also be sent to indicate that the viewer is neither interested nor uninterested in the corresponding program.

20 The method for bookmarking and dynamically changing of the
presentation order is not limited to bookmarking during the teaser

presentation. In one embodiment, the method for bookmarking may also be used during a presentation of a story to indicate that the current story is of interest, but should be presented later or with reduced priority. Thus, this enables the viewer to postpone the presentation of the current story, and
5 changes the presentation order dynamically.

In one embodiment, a method to bookmark or postpone a story is not limited to a television news segment environment. The method can be applied to situations where a streaming media presentation order is dynamically changed based on viewer input, such as a table of contents of a video library, a
10 music video, or an audio-only application, for example.

Figures 2 through 5 show embodiments of an interactive service module for real-time bookmarking of streaming media assets. Referring now to **Figure 2**, a block diagram of an on-site media system having a dedicated service module is shown, in accordance with one embodiment of the present
15 invention. To provide a context for the dedicated service module, on-site media system 200 shows one embodiment of a larger system in which the dedicated service module may be implemented to provide a dedicated on-site media service. On-site media system 200 includes a control/data bus 202 for communicating information, a central processor unit 204 for processing
20 information and instructions, coupled to bus 202, and a memory unit 206 for storing information and instructions, coupled to bus 202. Memory unit 206 can

different levels (e.g., device upgrade, software platform upgrade, and content upgrade).

Signal source 211 can be any device, such as an antennae for receiving a broadcast, a cable interface for line transmission, or a dish for receiving

5 satellite broadcast. Display device 218 of **Figure 2** can be any type of display, including an analog or a digital television, or a personal computer (PC) display. While processor 204 and memory 206 are shown as individual entities, they may be incorporated into another component. For example, processor 204 and memory 206 may be new components or may be existing
10 components in display device 218, e.g. a digital television (DTV), dedicated service module 210, or in a set-top box (not shown). Additionally, while dedicated service module 210 is shown individually, it may be integrated into other components, such as display device 218, as shown in configuration B of subsequent **Figure 3B**.

15 System 200 also includes an optional Internet connection 216 coupled to bus 202 for transmitting information to, and receiving information from, the Internet. The information may be a video segment, such as an A/V clip for example. An optional user input device 212, e.g. a keypad, remote control, etc., coupled to bus 202 is also included in system 200 of **Figure 2**, to provide
20 communication between system 200 and a user. Optional local receiver/source 208, which can be a set top box in one embodiment, is coupled

to bus 202 to provide a media signal. Optional local receiver/source 208 can alternatively be located inside display device 218. Optional local/receiver source 208 can allow viewer options such as simultaneous viewing of a segment through a tuner or source that is independent of the dedicated tuners of dedicated service module 210. Thus, the dedicated tuner, e.g. 201, in dedicated service module 210, always provides a dedicated path for a given medial signal.

Bus 202 provides an exemplary coupling configuration of devices in on-site media system 200. Bus 202 is shown as a single bus line for clarity. It is appreciated by those skilled in the art that bus 202 can include subcomponents of specific data lines and/or control lines for the communication of commands and data between appropriate devices. It is further appreciated by those skilled in the art that bus 202 can be a parallel configuration, or a IEEE 1394 configuration, that bus 202 can include numerous gateways, interconnect, and translators, as appropriate for a given application.

It is also appreciated that on-site media system 200 is exemplary only and that the present invention can operate within a number of different media systems including a commercial media system, a general purpose computer system, etc. Furthermore, the present invention is well-suited to using a host of intelligent devices that have similar components as exemplary on-site media system 200.

connection 213b because the Internet connection bypasses the need for a dedicated tuner.

The present embodiment of dedicated service module 210 includes multiple tuners and disks, exclusively coupled to each other as shown.

5 However, the present invention is well-suited to many different configurations. For example, one or more allocated partitions, or portions, of a single disk can be utilized in lieu of separate storage devices, e.g. one hard drive with five partitions replaces five separate hard drives. In yet another embodiment, a "gang" of multiple tuners could be cooperatively shared across
10 a current active receiver, under the assumption that not all of the multiple broadcast signals would want to be tuned and recorded at all times. In this latter embodiment, each broadcast signal can still have a guaranteed capacity of disk storage. This latter embodiment would trade off the cost of a service module with the level of dedicated service desired.

15 While the present embodiment arranges multiple tuner-storage pairs, e.g. 203a and 201a pair and 203b and 201b pair, in a parallel manner, the present invention is well-suited to alternative coupling arrangements. For example, in one embodiment, tuner-storage pairs may be daisy-chained to deliver the multiplex broadcast signal to each dedicated tune.

20 Bus 315, for providing multiplexed broadcast stream, is conformal to the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) 1394 standard in one

embodiment. Furthermore, two-way media/data line 316 is also compatible with the IEEE 1394 standard, in one embodiment.

The connection to the optional local receiver, e.g. optional local receiver/source 208 of **Figure 2** (viz., a tuner in a television or Set Top Box

5 (STB)), enables a viewer to access segmenting from dedicated service module 210 as a set of streams to complement a conventional broadcast from optional local receiver. Furthermore, the present invention is well-suited to using many different configurations of dedicated tuner-storage devices. For example, one or more dedicated media storage devices may be committed to a single
10 dedicated tuner, thus allowing concurrent recording and viewing. Alternative embodiments are provided in subsequent figures.

The present invention also shows one open slot 312 for an additional dedicated tuner-storage pair. However, the present invention is well-suited to providing interactive media device 210 with any number of open slots and any
15 number of installed dedicated tuner-storage pairs.

Additionally, dedicated storage device 210 has a modular interface to media storage adapter 306 and tuner adapter 308 in the present embodiment. That is, the present embodiment of **Figure 3A** is a form-factor media tower into which a consumer can plug or unplug dedicated service cartridges, having the
20 dedicated tuners and media storage devices, units.

Referring now to **Figure 3B**, multiple designs of a dedicated service module are shown, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Configurations A-C show alternative configurations for a modular embodiment of the dedicated service module, e.g. where the dedicated tuner-disk, pairs are removable cartridges. Configuration A shows a traditional stand alone dedicated service module device. Configuration B shows an integrated dedicated service module that is built-in to a display device. Lastly, configuration C shows a stacked stand alone dedicated service module device. The dedicated tuner-storage pairs can be plugged into a back-plane of any device appropriate for consumer use. The present invention is well-suited to using any other stacking and coupling configuration for a modular dedicated service module. It is appreciated that the integrated service module devices shown in **Figure 3B** are exemplary. The present invention is well-suited to a wide range of designs and configurations for the dedicated service module and the cartridge embodiment of the dedicated tuner-disk pair.

Referring now to **Figure 4**, a block diagram of another configuration of a dedicated service module is shown, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Dedicated service module 310a, also referred to as a dedicated service cartridge, includes a media storage device 402, and a tune
20 404. In the present embodiment, both the media storage device 402 and the tuner 404 to which it is coupled, are dedicated to a specific content provider.

For example, tuner 404 may be preset to receive a broadcast frequency corresponding to a national news broadcaster. In another embodiment, dedicated service module 310a can be generic cartridge that is segmented with tuning instructions suitable to tune in the appropriate broadcast signal, in

5 response to a subscription, or to some other business module.

Tuner 404 of **Figure 4** is coupled to adapter 406 via data line 408 to receive source signal, e.g. a broadcast spectrum. Media storage device 402 and tuner 404 are coupled via control line 410 to adapter 406 to receive instructions to tuner and/or media storage device in accordance with on-site media service
10 software and commands, e.g. via processor 204 and memory 206 of **Figure 2**. Media storage device 402 is also coupled to adapter 406 via line 416 to provide media data from media storage device to a media system, such as that shown in **Figure 2**. Line 414 provides the dedicated media signal, tuner by tuner 404, to dedicated media storage 402. In another embodiment, data and control can
15 be multiplexed on a single line. Adapter 406 allows dedicated service module 310a to interface with an interactive media system, such as the embodiment shown in **Figure 3A**. As mentioned in **Figure 3A**, another embodiment of a dedicated service module allows for dedicated Internet access, and thus eliminates the dedicated tuner but retains the dedicated media storage device.

20 In one embodiment, dedicated service module 310a of **Figure 4** is a modular unit that a consumer can purchase and simply insert to an interactive

80398.P334

shared among multiple tuners while still satiating the goal of guaranteed storage capacity for a broadcast signal.

Referring now to **Figure 5**, a functional block diagram of an interactive media system including content provider media system and on-site media system is shown, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Interactive media system 500 includes a content provider media system 520, also referred to as content provider, and includes an on-site media system 530.

Content provider media system 520 includes a media content database 504 that provides media content data, as indicated by the arrows, to an editing block 506 and to an encoder engine block 512. Any format of data can be stored in the media content database 504. For example, in one embodiment, the media content data stored in media content database 504 is compliant with the Moving Picture Experts Group-2 (MPEG-2) standard. Media content database 504 also communicates, as shown by arrow, with on-site media service database 502, which in turn provides data to editing block 506. On-site media service database 502 includes metadata, content options, service data and service options, function data and functional options, and interactive data and interactive options, in one embodiment. However, the present invention is well-suited to storing any other type of data that would enhance the on-site media service. These data may be commands, software code, descriptive structures, or other information useful to an on-site media system.

automatically cache a specific Web content prior to viewer presentation in order to give the viewer a sense of instant access during the presentation. Additionally, a back channel can be enabled either via this Internet block or through other mechanisms, such as a cable modem for cable-based broadcast.

5 Decoder 532 can be a dedicated tuner, such as the dedicated tuner 404 shown in **Figure 4**, or the dedicated tuner portion, e.g. tuner 201a of **Figure 3A**. Content manager block 536 provides a filtering function on the decoded media signal. That is, content manager block 536 segregates content from on-site media service data and sends them to respective storage devices, e.g. media
10 content hard drive 538 for content data, and on-site media service drive 540. These separate drives are figurative in one embodiment as both signals can be tied together by writing them to a single disk. Content manager block 530 can also implement a first-level content filter that, according to subscription software, user profile, or viewer-selected options, decides whether to record
15 the media signal, e.g. to media content hard drive 538, or to ignore the signal and not record it. Content manager can be implemented using instructions stored on memory 206 and implemented on processor 204 of on-site media hardware system 200, as shown in **Figure 2**, in one embodiment.

 The next stage of on-site media system 530 is the data presentation
20 formatting stage 556. In this stage, on-site media service information is received from on-site media service drive 540 at showflow engine block 544.

5 Rendering engine 542 performs the formatting and integration of the desired
images to be viewed on display device, in one embodiment. A wide variety of
media elements, e.g. video, audio, text, etc., may be combined in many
different formats to provide a desired composite presentation for viewing on
display device 546. For example, electronic segmenting guide (EPG)
10 information may be more dynamically formatted, including clips from the
actual segment. That is, the EPG can be enabled via the present invention to
allow users to view previews of any segment for which a commercial has been
broadcast instead of the typical text tile of a segment in a two-dimensional
grid. In another embodiment, a user segment interface that presents menus,
15 media clips, or other data, may be overlaid onto content images for display
device 546.

Rendering engine 542 transfers presentation data to display device 546 for the final stage of presenting display 558. User input is communicated back to rendering engine 542 via line 548. User input can be received via push-
20 button selection on set-top box or a television unit, or from an other source, such as a remote control input.

Referring now to **Figure 6A**, a diagram of a fine-grain media stream 600 is shown, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. **Figure 6A** illustrates segment data and duration as a physical block 601. Segment block 601 has a time span 606 over which content is presented. The present invention provides a very fine grain metadata tagging for segment content. For example, **Figure 6A** shows metadata labeling at a clip level, e.g. metadata tag 603a for clip content 602a having a time span of 604. This is repeated for any quantity of clips within the segment. The present invention is well-suited to using any scale of metadata labeling, as appropriate for an application. For

example, tagging clips with metadata would be appropriate for some news segments having many short clips in the segment. By using the fine-grain metadata tagging, the present invention provides the necessary data and infrastructure for an on-site media service to provide enhanced services and functions to a viewer. One such feature would be fine-grain navigation and compilation of media content related to a specific viewer interest or inquiry.

Referring to now to **Figure 6B**, a television view generated using the interactive media system is shown, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Television view 650 is shown on a conventional television 658. Segment user interface 654 is provided along with a presenter 656 image, both of which are overlaid onto a core media content 652, e.g., an airplane story clip. The present invention provides the appropriate audio and associated data corresponding to the video data. Notably, the content-provider can exercise editorial content over when and what service, function, and content options are available to the viewer, e.g. through the segment user interface. This allows greater choice to a viewer while still satisfying a business model for the content provider.

Television view 650 illustrates how the content provider, e.g. broadcaster, can control some of the recording, management formatting, and presentation of media to a user. Similarly, television view 650 illustrates how the viewer can interact with predetermined menu options to accomplish

desired services and features, e.g. viewing segment user interface for
alternative clips, selecting a function from a menu in segment user interface
654, or adjusting the presenter format 656. The present invention is well-suited
to using any combination of these, and other, presentation formats and

5 contents to present an on-site media service to the viewer, and or user.

Furthermore, each of the several on-site media services described can be
implemented independent of each other, or in any combination. The same
independence exists for the interactive feature of the on-site media service.

The method can be implemented in an environment with software
10 controlled access to streamed media, where descriptive Metadata is used to
relate teaser AV material to full length versions of the corresponding content.

These and other embodiments of the present invention may be realized
in accordance with these teachings and it should be evident that various
modifications and changes may be made in these teachings without departing
15 from the broader spirit and scope of the invention. The specification and
drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than
restrictive sense and the invention measured only in terms of the claims.